CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A lid comprising:

a radially extending body;

wherein the lid is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a container having a selected size and shape to substantially close an opening thereof;

at least one stabilizing feature sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a sleeve structure having a selected size and shape which is associated and assembled with another container having a selected size and shape, upon the another container being positioned generally longitudinally above the lid.

2. The lid of claim 1, wherein the lid is configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the container formed on an upper longitudinal end thereof and defining the opening thereof.

3. The lid of claim 2, further comprising at least one aperture in the radially extending body sized and configured to allow liquid to pass therethrough.

4. The lid of claim 2, wherein the lid comprises a downwardly oriented arcuate recess for engaging at least a portion of the rolled rim of the container.

5. The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the container.

6. The lid of claim 2, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the container.

7. The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

8. The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

9. The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

10. The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the sleeve structure.

11. The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lid.

12. The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the lid.

13. The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

14. The lid of claim 13, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

15. A container, comprising:
a lower wall;

a side wall extending from the lower wall and forming an opening; and

at least one stabilizing feature sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a sleeve structure associated and assembled with another container positioned longitudinally above the container.

16. The container of claim 15, wherein:

the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

17. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the container.

18. The container of claim 15, wherein:

the container further comprises a rolled rim formed on an upper longitudinal end thereof; and

the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the container.

19. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

20. The container of claim 19, wherein:

the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

21. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

22. The container of claim 21, wherein:

the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

23. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the container.

24. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the container.

25. The container of claim 15, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

26. The container of claim 25, wherein:

the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and

each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

27. A sleeve structure, comprising:

a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a container having a selected size and shape and to form a space between the container assembled therewith and the side wall of the sleeve structure;

at least one stabilizing feature sized and configured to engage at least a portion of another, like sleeve structure associated and assembled with another container having a selected size and shape upon the another container being positioned generally longitudinally above the container.

28. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the side wall comprises a substantially flat sheet that is constrained to assume a frustoconical shape.

29. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond an opening of the container.

30. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein:

the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to a rolled rim of the container.

31. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

32. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

33. The sleeve structure of claim 32, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

34. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

35. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

36. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the sleeve structure.

37. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the sleeve structure.

38. The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

39. The sleeve structure of claim 38, wherein:

the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and

each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the another sleeve structure.

40. A sleeve structure, comprising:

a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a container having a selected size and shape and to form a space between the container assembled therewith and the side wall of the sleeve structure;

wherein the upper longitudinal end of the sleeve structure includes two or more circumferentially separated longitudinally extending sections, the two or more sections configured to engage and support the container; and

wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure is sized and positioned to form a space between the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

41. The sleeve structure of claim 40, further comprising tabs formed in the side wall of the sleeve structure configured to be bendable in relation to the side wall.

42. The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the side wall comprises a substantially flat sheet that is constrained to assume a frustoconical shape.

43. The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially inward so that upper longitudinal ends thereof engage a rolled rim formed on an upper longitudinal end of the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

44. The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially inwardly and into an interior of the sleeve structure, so as to form a radially outwardly tapered region, in relation to an upward longitudinal direction, the region sized,

positioned, and configured to engage and support a side wall of the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

45. The sleeve structure of claim 40,wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure longitudinally below the two or more circumferentially separated sections is frustoconical.

46. The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially outward so that upper longitudinal ends thereof are positioned to engage a rolled rim formed on an upper longitudinal end of the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

47. The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially outward so as to form a radially outwardly tapered region, in relation to an upward longitudinal direction, the region configured to engage and support a side wall of a container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

48. A sleeve structure, comprising:

a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a container to form a space between the container assembled therewith and the side wall of the sleeve structure;

wherein the side wall comprises at least two frustoconical regions; and

wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure is sized and positioned to form a space between the side wall and the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

49. The sleeve structure of claim 48, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit opposing tapers.

50. The sleeve structure of claim 49, wherein a first frustoconical region of the at least two frustoconical regions is disposed within a second frustoconical region of the at least two

frustoconical regions and exhibits a generally complementary taper with respect to the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

51. The sleeve structure of claim 48, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit complementary tapers.

52. The sleeve structure of claim 48, further comprising at least one generally cylindrical region.

53. The sleeve structure of claim 48, wherein an upper longitudinal end of the sleeve structure includes two or more circumferentially separated longitudinally extending sections.

54. A container assembly, comprising:

a lower container comprising a side wall and a radially inwardly extending lower wall, an upper longitudinal end of the side wall forming an opening;

an upper container comprising a side wall and a radially inwardly extending lower wall, an upper longitudinal end of the side wall of the upper container forming an opening;

wherein the upper container is disposed longitudinally above and generally centered in relationship to the lower container;

a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of the side wall of the lower container, the sleeve structure having a lower outer radial extent that exceeds a radial extent of the lower longitudinal end of the lower container and forming a space between the sleeve structure and the lower container;

a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container, the sleeve structure of the upper container having a lower outer radial extent that exceeds a radial extent of the lower longitudinal end of the upper container and forming a space between the sleeve structure of the upper container and the upper container;

a lid, positioned proximate the opening of the lower container and assembled thereto; and

at least one stabilizing feature disposed on at least one of the lower container, the lid, and the sleeve structure of the lower container, the at least one stabilizing feature sized and

configured to matingly engage the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

55. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the lower container.

56. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein:

the lower container further comprises a rolled rim formed on the upper longitudinal end thereof; and

the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the lower container.

57. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein:

the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on the lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

58. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

59. The container assembly of claim 58, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

60. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

61. The container assembly of claim 60, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

62. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lower container.

63. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lid.

64. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the lower container.

65. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

66. The container assembly of claim 65, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and
each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

67. The container assembly of claim 54, wherein each of the sleeve structures comprise at least two frustoconical regions.

68. The container assembly of claim 67, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit opposing tapers.

69. The container assembly of claim 68, wherein a first frustoconical region of the at least two frustoconical regions is disposed within the second frustoconical region of the at least two frustoconical regions and exhibits a generally complementary taper with respect to the container disposed therein.

70. The container assembly of claim 67, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit complementary tapers.

71. The sleeve structure of claim 68, further comprising at least one generally cylindrical region.

72. The sleeve structure of claim 68, wherein an upper longitudinal end of each of the sleeve structures includes two or more circumferentially separated longitudinally extending sections.

73. A structure for retaining a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of a container so as to form a space therebetween comprising:

a base;

a raised portion extending from a portion of the base;

wherein the raised portion comprises a side wall defining a generally U-shaped recess;

a lower groove formed in the side wall of the generally U-shaped recess, forming an overhanging lip thereabove;

wherein the generally U-shaped recess, the lower groove, and the overhanging lip are each sized and configured so as to cooperatively preferentially retain a lower end of the sleeve structure disposed therein.

74. The structure of claim 73, further comprising:

a movable button, the button sized and configured to retain the sleeve structure disposed within the recess.

75. The structure of claim 73, wherein the structure comprises one of a container holder, a tray, a vehicle container holder, a cardboard food and beverage holder, or an adapter.